

BT Program Creates Library as Public Health Resource

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Hey - check out what's happening at the Kansas Bioterrorism Program!

The program has developed a reference library of print, multimedia and audiovisual materials that are available for checkout to local health department and hospital staff who work in bioterrorism preparedness.

"We're very excited to be able to offer the library as a resource to those involved in preparedness planning at the local and regional levels," said Mindee Reece, Director of the Kansas Bioterrorism Program at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.



The library includes materials on a broad range of subjects. These subjects include not only bioterrorism preparedness, but also topics such as terrorism and mental health, risk communication, laboratory information, epidemiology, physical security, and many more. Materials are available in the form of videotapes, CDs, and print, although most titles come in only one of these forms. There are now 212 individual items cataloged, including some duplicate titles.

Local health departments and hospitals can request materials by contacting the KDHE Office of Communications and have the materials delivered to them via the private courier that is under contract with the KDHE Division of Health and Environmental Laboratories. The materials can then be returned to KDHE through the courier.

The library is just one way the program is helping to fulfill the requirements of a five-year grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Grant funds are being used to make Kansas more prepared to respond to an attack by terrorists using biological weapons, or an outbreak of emerging infectious disease such as SARS or pandemic influenza.

The primary means by which the Kansas Bioterrorism Program is accomplishing this goal is by providing resources, training and technical assistance to local health departments and hospitals. The program is also developing a statewide response plan in conjunction with those being developed locally.

Users of the Public Health Information Exchange (PHIX) system can log in and view the library's information page. Contact Mike Heideman at (785) 296-4363 or mheidema@kdhe.state.ks.us for more information.